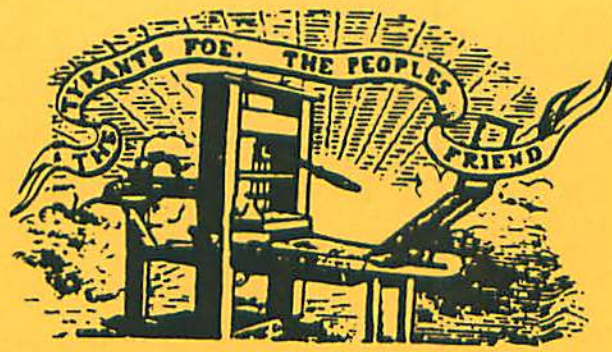


Vol. 6 No. 2



August 1887 - 1987

"IN CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES"

VERMISSA DAILY HERALD

In This Issue...

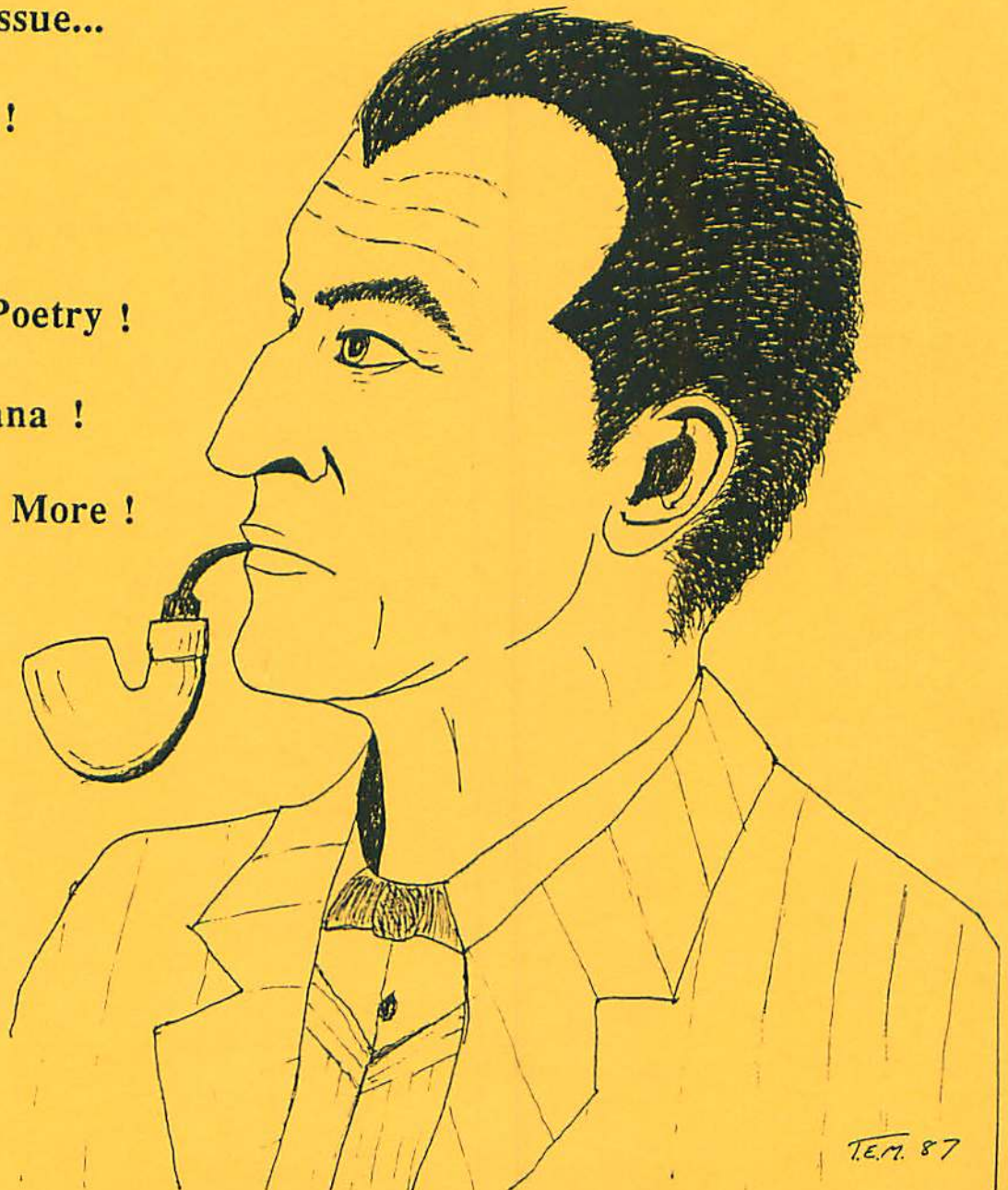
Sabotage !

Fanlight !

Diamont Poetry !

Sherlockiana !

And Much More !



"Holmes cogitat; ergo sumus."

-William Haurert

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ABOUT THE COVER

The cover illustration is a drawing by Thomas E. Miller and features a composite of several actors that have portrayed Holmes.

The illustration is (C) 1987 by Thomas E. Miller.

The quotation "Holmes cogitat; ergo sumus", by William C. Haurert, translates to "Holmes thinks; therefore we are."

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A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

Sherlock Holmes, the greatest detective and perhaps the best and wisest man whom the English-speaking world has ever known, was born in 1854. He practiced as a private enquiry agent in London (chiefly at the immortal address of 221B Baker Street) from 1877 to 1891, when he was believed to have perished in the act of destroying the arch-criminal Professor Moriarty. In the third year he returned from the dead and resumed active practice until his retirement in 1903. Since that time he has devoted himself to beekeeping in the Sussex Downs (emerging from retirement to save the British Empire in 1914), and may, since his obituary has never been published, be still alive at an advanced age.

The world-famous accounts of his cases, from "A Study in Scarlet" (1887) to "The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes" (1927), were written chiefly by his friend and associate Dr. John Hamish Watson (two accounts are by Holmes himself and two by questionable hands). Watson's skillful literary agent was his fellow physician Arthur Conan Doyle, himself a writer of some reputation, especially as a historical novelist. The assertion by the agent's sons that their father "wrote" the cases and even that he "created" the character of Holmes is patently absurd.

This creed is the firm belief of most rational men, but in particular, it is the devout doctrine of:

THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS

-Anthony Boucher
1911-1968
Founding Bodymaster
The Scowrs &
Molly Maguires

WHO ARE THE IRREGULARS ?

The original Baker Street Irregulars were a band of street urchins employed by Sherlock Holmes as assistants. Their namesakes today are an informal association of admirers of Holmes, devoted to the enjoyment and study of the Holmesian Canon, to happy conviviality, and to the publication of a quarterly journal of *Holmesiana* and so many other books and pamphlets that it has been remarked, "Never has so much been written by so many for so few."

The present Irregulars came into being in 1934, under the tutelage of the late Christopher Morley, who was the organization's first and only Gasogene (or chairman), ably abetted by bookman Vincent Starrett and news analyst Elmer Davis. The original group of seven members has spread until there are at least a score of scion societies in the United States - with such names as "The Speckled Band" (Boston), "The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic)" (Chicago), "The Brothers Three" (Moriarty, New Mexico) - and many loosely affiliated groups abroad, notably in London, Tokyo and Copenhagen.

Irregulars come from all branches of life and range from librarians to astronauts.

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA IRREGULARS

The Bay Area scion (chapter) of the B.S.I., known as "The Scowrers (after a secret society of terrorists in "The Valley of Fear") and Molly Maguires" of San Francisco, was founded in 1944 by bookmen Joseph Henry Jackson and Anthony Boucher. This group meets irregularly (approximately three times a year) for dinner, discussion, the reading of papers and frequent toasts. The membership includes such diverse occupations as journalist, bank vice-president, travel planner, broker, photographer, writer, and numerous doctors, lawyers, teachers, office workers and domestic scientists.

Your interest in Sherlock Holmes is the principal requirement for membership in this group. If you would like to obtain more information regarding membership in The Scowrers & Molly Maguires please send your inquiry, along with a stamped self-addressed envelope, to:

R. de Groat, Harraway
Vermissa Valley Lodge 341
Mount Eden, California 94557

TO SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

The following poetic tribute to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was written by Francophile Rathmell Wilson and was "lost" to the Sherlockian world for many, many years. The foreword to All Sorts, from which this was extracted, is dated October 26th, 1924.

This poem was read by Senex Senior at the Scowlers and Molly Maguires meeting of October 20, 1984, almost exactly sixty years later.

Sir A. Conan Doyle.

This gentle knight sprang into fame
Through a detective - Holmes by name,
Who found out every time - you bet!
The problems his creator set.

* * * * *

At present, strange to state, you'll find
Spooks in possession of his mind.
He'll journey almost anywhere
To gaze upon a jumping chair,
For rappings which defy detection
Abnormal is his great affection.
And almost anywhere he'll trudge
For sittings with the latest "Sludge."

* * * * *

Sherlock, I'm sure, if really dead
Would sadly shake his spirit head;
Yet he's so obviously sincere,
One smiles at him - then gives a cheer.

-- Rathmell Wilson

STANGER PREVARIGATES POSTULATES

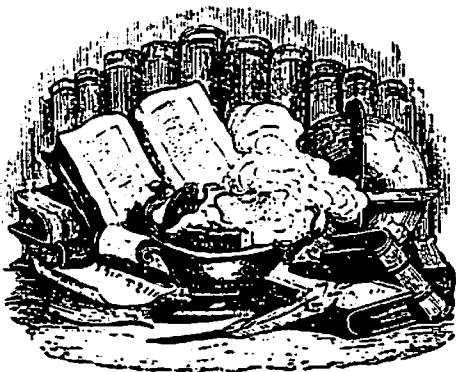
As those of you who have read my past editorials know, (yeah, both of you, you know who you are!) I looked upon the steady approach of the television film, The Return of Sherlock Holmes, with a considerable amount of trepidation. I am happy to say that my fears were groundless. The movie was not half-bad. I still question the whole idea of moving Holmes from the mannered, proper atmosphere of the Victorian and Edwardian periods to our own bustling and unpleasant age (aptly called "the crazy years" by Robert A Heinlein). However, the film was done with a certain amount of style, the acting was good, and the many allusions to The Sign of the Four were clever and indicate that someone had done his homework.



While there is a movement going on to make this a series, I, for one, hope that this doesn't come to pass. Television managed to avoid fouling up, what is basically a rather silly idea once. However, I doubt that they would be able to carry it off again.

While reading through Alfred Hutton's curious old book, The Sword and the Centuries recently, I found the following rather interesting paragraph:

"The fence of the case of Rapiers, as of all the other Elizabethan weapons, is much in vogue at the present time at the Bartitsu Club..."



Now it has been fairly well established that the expression "baritsu" in The Adventure of the Empty House is actually one of the few certain misprints or simple spelling errors. It should read bartitsu, an Anglicized version of jujutsu (also spelled jujitsu). Bartitsu was developed and promoted through the Bartitsu Club.

I don't think that the question of how Holmes was introduced to the art has ever been properly answered. However, consider that the Bartitsu Club, as indicated by The Sword and the Centuries was one of the places that promoted both

STANGER PREVARIGATES POSTULATES

theatrical and practical fencing as well as singlestick. (Singlestick is a method of practice for broadsword and backsword, rather similar to modern saber fencing and even more so to German Schlager fencing.)

Holmes is known to be skilled with both foil and singlestick, as well as being interested in the theatrical arts. What is more natural then that he should search out some place to practice these arts when he came to London. If the membership rolls of the Bartitsu Club still exist I feel certain that the name of Sherlock Holmes must appear quite prominently. If he joined to keep up his skills in fencing, what is more natural then that he should decide to add this English variant of jujutsu to his skills.

This would also indicate that Holmes was a considerably more formidable fighter then would otherwise seem apparent. Consider, the Bartitsu Club was, in a sense, a forerunner of those modern Dojos which include weapon practice as well as empty hand combat. A man skilled in boxing, several types of fencing, singlestick and Bartitsu would be formidable, even by today's standards. Given Holmes great strength (straightening a bent poker is considerably harder then bending it). I am afraid the hapless Moriarty didn't stand a chance at the Reichenbach Falls. It is to be hoped that Hollywood never realizes how good an infighter Sherlock Holmes is, or they just might cast Chuck Norris as the next Sherlock Holmes.

* * * * *

As a source of out-of-print British books, I can definitely recommend Richard Dalby. His service is fast, his prices reasonable, and he has managed to track down several books that I had long ago given up any hope of finding. I can also recommend his own monograph, The Bram Stoker Bibliography, an extremely useful book for those interested in Stoker and the Dracula story. Mr. Dalby can be reached at the following address.

RICHARD DALBY
4 WESTBOURNE PARK
SCARBOROUGH
NORTH YORKSHIRE
YO12 4AT
ENGLAND

S A B O T A G E

by

William Warner



PREFACE

World War I broke out in August, 1914. On land, the two sides took position on different sides of a long line of trenches. In Flanders, Britain and France checked Germany on a line of trenches that stretched from Switzerland to the North Sea. On the Eastern Front, Germany and Austria faced Russia in a battlefield that ran from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea. On land, the machine gun, cannon barrage and gas ruled. But what of the oceans?

At sea, under Admiral Tirpitz (1898-1916), Germany had managed to build a fleet second only to Britain's. England had roughly 500 fighting vessels to Germany's 300, according to the 1914 edition of Jane's Fighting Ships. The British fleet was largely the creation of Admiral Jack Fisher.

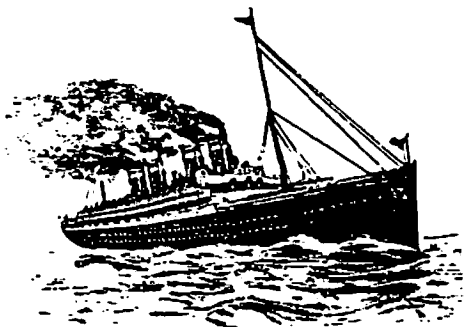
This story is about the war between Germany and England for the supremacy of the North Sea.

PART I

SCOTLAND

August, 1914

Moriarty stood gazing at the five British battle cruisers in the Lion's Lair. The Lion's Lair was that section of the Firth of Forth located between Edinburgh and Rosyth. The year was 1914, and war had just broken out between England and Germany.



Five ships had laid anchor in the Firth of Forth, known as the Battle Cruiser Force & Firth Battle Squadron. The flagship was the Lion, followed by the Queen Mary, New Zealand, Princess Royal and the Tiger. Behind the five ships stood the ruins, or what was left of Rosyth Castle. The Fifth Battle Squadron was pointed at the Firth of Forth cantilever bridge, or towards the cold, grey North Sea.

S A B O T A G E

Moriarty had helped draw up the plans for these ships at Vickers House, London. This was the home of the famous Vickers-Armstrong Limited Shipbuilders. Moriarty made sure that all of the ships that he designed for Vickers-Armstrong had two weak links. The first weak link was that he didn't include "anti-flash screens" for the turret traps. All of the shells are located in the shellroom, where they haven't been prepared for detonation. To detonate the shells, one must attach cordite charges to them. This is done in the handling room, on the floor above the shellroom. Lastly, the elevator takes the shell up to the gun house (turret), to fire at the enemy ships.

The trunk is the elevator section that joins the handling room, with the turret. If an enemy shell hit the turret and exploded at the point that the cordite charge was being put in the shell, then the shell would explode in the magazine of the ship. Anti-flash screens would block this; only Moriarty was careful to make sure that they would not be part of the design of these ships. Once the shell was ignited in the handling room, by the flash from an enemy shell that had hit the turret and gone down the elevator shaft, the ship's magazine would be ignited. Once the ship's magazine was ignited, then the whole ship would blow up, unless someone could flood the magazine (shellroom) in time. Moriarty did all of this under the alias of Alexander Brighton.

In 1910 Colonel Sebastian Moran, one of Moriarty's most trusted lieutenants, managed to get a job at the firm of Vickers-Armstrong, under his own name. He had been a colonel in the Indian Army, and so he had no problem getting a security clearance from the British government to work at Vickers Armstrongs. In no time at all, Colonel Sebastian Moran became Vice-manager of Armstrongs-Vickers.

Colonel Moran's first move was to hire Moriarty for his Ship-designing staff, under the alias of Alexander Brighton. Moriarty rewarded Colonel Moran for this kind of work with a salary of £6,000 per year.

Alexander Brighton drew up the blueprint for what was to become the standard shell of the British Navy. The shells were supposed to be armor piercing shells that would pierce 2 to 3 inches of enemy armor before exploding. But instead, Alexander Brighton designed a faulty shell that would breakup and explode upon impact. Therefore, there would be two weak links to the British ships: one, a lack of Anti-flash screens, and two, shells that would explode upon impact, rather than the armor piercing ones.

While Moriarty stood gazing at the British warships located in Edinburgh's Firth of Forth, Sherlock Holmes was busy glancing through the "Evening Standard" newspaper.

S A B O T A G E

EVENING STANDARD
SEPT. 15, 1914

Front page, right-hand column, Editorial: "The famous Ship building firm of Armstrongs-Vickers, of London, Barrow-in Furness and Newcastle-on-Tyne, was proud to announce today the promotion of Colonel Sebastian Moran to head the corporation. Colonel Moran, ex-Indian Army, has just succeeded Lord Stanley Throgmorton as president of the company."

Sherlock Holmes knew that Colonel Moran was one of Moriarty's "henchmen", from his near fatal battle-to-the-death, at Reichenbach Falls, Switzerland, in 1891. Moriarty and Colonel Moran had lived in a chalet together in the Swiss town of Meringen. Holmes knew that when he left on his Great Hiatus (1891-1894 to Tibet and the Sudan), that Colonel Moran had probably gone back to London. Sherlock Holmes was still totally unaware that Moriarty had escaped death at Reichenbach Falls. Miraculously, Moriarty landed in the Reichenbach River, and escaped to New Orleans, America (where he remained for three years before returning to London). How could Moriarty have escaped death, thought Holmes, since it was he, Sherlock Holmes, who had "shoved" him off the precipice to his doom at Reichenbach Falls.

So, thought Holmes, Colonel Moran had wound up at the firm of Armstrong-Vickers. Holmes cut out the Column from the newspaper, and made the decision to take the Great Northern train to Edinburgh. He must get an interview with Vice-Admiral David Beatty of the H.M.S. Lion.

The Great Northern, with the blare of her whistle, belching coal smoke, eased out of King's Cross Station for Edinburgh at 12 o'clock the next day. Should be at Weaverly Station, Edinbrough, in 24 hours, thought Holmes. Sherlock Holmes looked out his dirty train window in his first-class compartment, at the endless houses and throng of humanity that represented London's teeming millions.

Sir David Beatty rose up from the dinner table of the Lion, and raised his wine glass to make a toast. "Gentlemen," he said, "to the King."

"To the King," chimed in the other four officers at the dinner table.

As dinner commenced aboard the Lion, Chief Petty Officer Murray brought in an urgent dispatch. It read as follows:

TO: VICE-ADMIRAL DAVID BEATTY

FROM: CONSULTING DETECTIVE SHERLOCK HOLMES

BELIEVE THE H.M.S. LION HAS BEEN SABOTAGED.

S A B O T A G E

REQUEST MEETING. AM STAYING AT THE HOTEL
CALEDONIAN ON PRINCESS STREET.

SINCERELY YOURS,
SHERLOCK HOLMES

Admiral Beatty arrived at Sherlock Holmes' room the next day (Moriarty had followed him in a horse-drawn hansom cab). Moriarty didn't realize till he got to the Caledonian Hotel and checked with the desk clerk, that Sherlock Holmes had arrived in Edinburgh. Moriarty, next, called Sebastian Moran up from London, and told him to leave immediately for Switzerland, as they were both under investigation.

"Admiral Beatty, do you realize who is working on the drafting boards of Armstrong-Vickers?"

"No, who?" inquired Beatty.

"None other than Colonel Sebastian Moran," replied Sherlock Holmes.

"So, What of it?" replied Beatty.

"Colonel Sebastian Moran," said Holmes, "is a henchmen of James Moriarty, the ex-high dean of London's underworld. I have reason to believe, even though Moriarty is now dead, that Moran may have sabotaged a number of ships built by Armstrong-Vickers of Newcastle.

"I am requesting your permission, sir, to board your ship and inspect it from head to toe. The only way to do this is for you to allow me to be your personal secretary for at least one week"

"I only know of you by your legendary reputation. But, all right," said Beatty. "Come aboard in exactly a fortnight, when I have time to arrange for your personal quarters"

Aboard the 26,000-ton Lion lived 1000 men. The length was 675', and beam 86'. The Lion mounted eight 13 1/2" guns, and all the armor came from Germany (Krupp). For fuel, the Lion carried 3500 tons of coal, and had a cruising speed of 25 knots.

However, the armor that came from Essen, Germany (Krupp) isn't what bothered Sherlock Holmes.

Holmes spent his first week inspecting the engine room, magazine and cordite charges room. Apparently, the shells were safe, until the cordite apparatus was put on the shell to get it ready for detonation. This was done in the handling room, which, along with the cordite charges, was the next floor above the magazine. Once the cordite charge was attached to the shell, an elevator brought the shell to the gun turret in a shaft known as the trunk.

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Holmes asked the Royal Marine major in charge of the magazine, "Is there anything about the safety of the magazine that bothers you?"

Yes, one thing," said the Royal Marine, Major Cockburn. "There are no anti-flash screens in the trunk of the ship. If a German shell blows up in the gun turret while another shell is coming up the shaft, it will blow the whole bloody ship to Kingdom Come."

"Why weren't anti-flash screens built into the elevator shaft?" inquired Holmes.

"I don't know why," responded Major Cockburn. "The only thing I can tell you, Inspector, is that this part of the ship was designed by Armstrong-Vickers of Newcastle."

"Thank you, Major," replied Holmes.

"Oh, one other thing, Major," continued Holmes.

"Yes, Inspector."

"If the shell in the elevator was ignited, would there be any way to save the ship at the last moment?"

"Yes, one way," said the major. "The magazine is 15' below the waterline. So, by opening the sea corks, one could flood the magazine and save the ship."

"Thank you," said Holmes.

"May I ask you one last question, Major," inquired Holmes.

"Oh, yes," Replied Cockburn.

"How much armor plating do you have on each shell?" asked Holmes.

"Almost none," replied Cockburn.

"Then," asked Holmes, "would the shell detonate upon impact, or would it pierce the enemy armor first, and then blow up?"

"The shell would explode upon impact," answered Cockburn.

"Will this sink the enemy ship?" asked Holmes.

"With great difficulty, Inspector. It would take five times as many shells to do so, as one armor piercing shell," responded Cockburn.

"Where were these shells designed and built?" asked Holmes.

"They were designed by Armstrong-Vickers, and built by the same corporation in Newcastle," said Cockburn.

S A B O T A G E

"Thank you," said Holmes.

Holmes retired to his room, pulled some tobacco out of his Persian slipper, and put it in his pipe. Then the dinner bell rang, and he left his room to join Vice-Admiral Beatty in the Captain's quarters.

After Holmes and Beatty had finished their dinner of pork chops and vegetable salad, and the other officers had left the room, Holmes gave Beatty a brief resume of the security of his vessel, the Lion.

"Your whole vessel is in good working order, including the German Krupp armor," said Holmes. "However, there are two weak links to your ship. One, you don't have anti-flash screens on your trunks, from the handling room to the gun turret. Two, your shells aren't armor piercing, so that they will break up and explode upon impact. Everything else is in excellent shape, other than the fact that the Lion hasn't been overhauled for fuel or petrol yet. Unfortunately, you're still burning coal."

"So, what do you recommend?" asked Beatty.

"Until you have anti-flash screens attached to your ships, you must stay out of the range of the German guns," said Holmes.

"What is the range of the German guns?" inquired Holmes.

"18,000 yards, I believe," responded Beatty.

"What range do our guns fire, with accuracy?" asked Holmes.

"20,000 yards," said Beatty.

"Which fleet has a faster order of battle?" asked Holmes.

"Our fleet has a battle formation of 20 knots, the German fleet probably of 17 knots," responded Beatty. "The fast ships, or destroyers, that can do 35 knots, must slow down for the slower ships."

"So," said Holmes, "you must keep our ships out of the range of the German guns."

"I'll send a report to the Admiralty in London tomorrow, requesting anti-flash screens for the trunks of the ships, and, new armor piercing shells. Also, I'll request an investigation of the firm of Armstrong-Vickers."

"Very good," said Holmes.

"What do you plan to do next?" asked Beatty.

S A B O T A G E

"Take a journey up to Scapa Flow, or the Orkney Islands, to pay a visit on Admiral Sir John Jellicoe. Could you write me a letter of recommendation?" said Holmes.

"But, of course," replied David Beatty.

The train at Edinburgh's Waverly train station left for Inverness the next day. Holmes waved good-bye to the Caledonian Hotel. At Inverness, Holmes switched trains for Thurso, and then from there, caught a boat for the Orkney Islands, in the cold North Sea.

Holmes handed Jellicoe his letter of introduction from Admiral Beatty. With that, he had a stateroom to himself for the next two weeks aboard the Iron Duke.

The Iron Duke was almost a replica of the Lion. It weighed 25,000 tons, was 620' long by 90' wide, and mounted 13 1/2" guns. Cruising speed, 25 knots, coal burning and like the Lion, all the armor plating came from Germany (Krupp). For the crew, one thousand sailors. Once, having inspected the Lion for two weeks, Holmes could do as good a job on the Iron Duke in just one week.

One week later, after a dinner of pork chops, vegetable salad and a gallon each of Earl Grey tea, Holmes submitted his report.

"There are two defects on the H.M.S. Iron Duke," said Holmes. "One, no anti-flash screens in your trunks, and two, your shells are not armor piercing, and so, will break up and explode upon impact."

"I'll submit a report to the Admiralty in London, tomorrow, to have the firm of Armstrong-Vickers investigated," said Jellicoe.

"What else would you recommend?" asked Jellicoe.

"What is the range of your guns?" asked Holmes.

"20,000 yards," responded Jellicoe, "with accuracy."

"The Germans have a range of 18,000 yards," said Holmes, "and so stay out of the range of the German guns."

"Our ships are comparably faster than theirs, so that shouldn't be hard to do," said Jellicoe.

"What is the strategy for the rest of the war," asked Holmes.

"To keep the German fleet pinned down in Wilhelmshaven, for the duration of the war. To make sure that they don't try and seize Norway as a means of outflanking our Orkney Island naval base. there is a channel squadron at Harwich, to the South, in case the Germans try to break out there. In other words, to keep our North Atlantic sea lanes open."

S A B O T A G E

"Good strategy," said Holmes.

Holmes spent the next week admiring the huge fleet assembled at Scapa Flow. Roughly 30 large warships, plus as many destroyers, were assembled there. Then he caught the Great Northern back to King's Cross Train station. He had been in Scotland one month.

Sherlock Holmes spent his next week at Scotland Yard and at Armstrong-Vickers in London. At Scotland Yard, inspectors Tobias Gregson and G. Lestrade had discovered, during their investigation of Armstrong-Vickers, that Moriarty was alive!

Armstrong-Vickers informed Gregson and Lestrade that somebody must have tipped Colonel Moran off that he was being investigated. Both he and Moriarty had vanished into "thin air" three weeks ago. Like Richilieu, Moriarty's spies were everywhere. Apparently they, Moriarty and Moran, had disappeared about one week after Holmes had left London. This was while he was on board the Lion.

So Moriarty was still alive. "Unbelievable," thought Holmes. Moriarty, the Napoleon of crime, the evil genius, had survived Reichenbach!

Colonel Archibald Baldwin replaced Colonel Sebastian Moran as head of the firm of Armstrong-Vickers. As far as he could tell, it would take 2 1/2 years, or until 1917, before the fleet could be fitted out with anti-flash screens. The armor-piercing shells, they would probably have to order from America's U.S. Steel Corporation, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The transition from coal to petroleum would be another 2-3 years. Clearly the fleet would be in sad shape if not completely overhauled in the next 2-3 years.

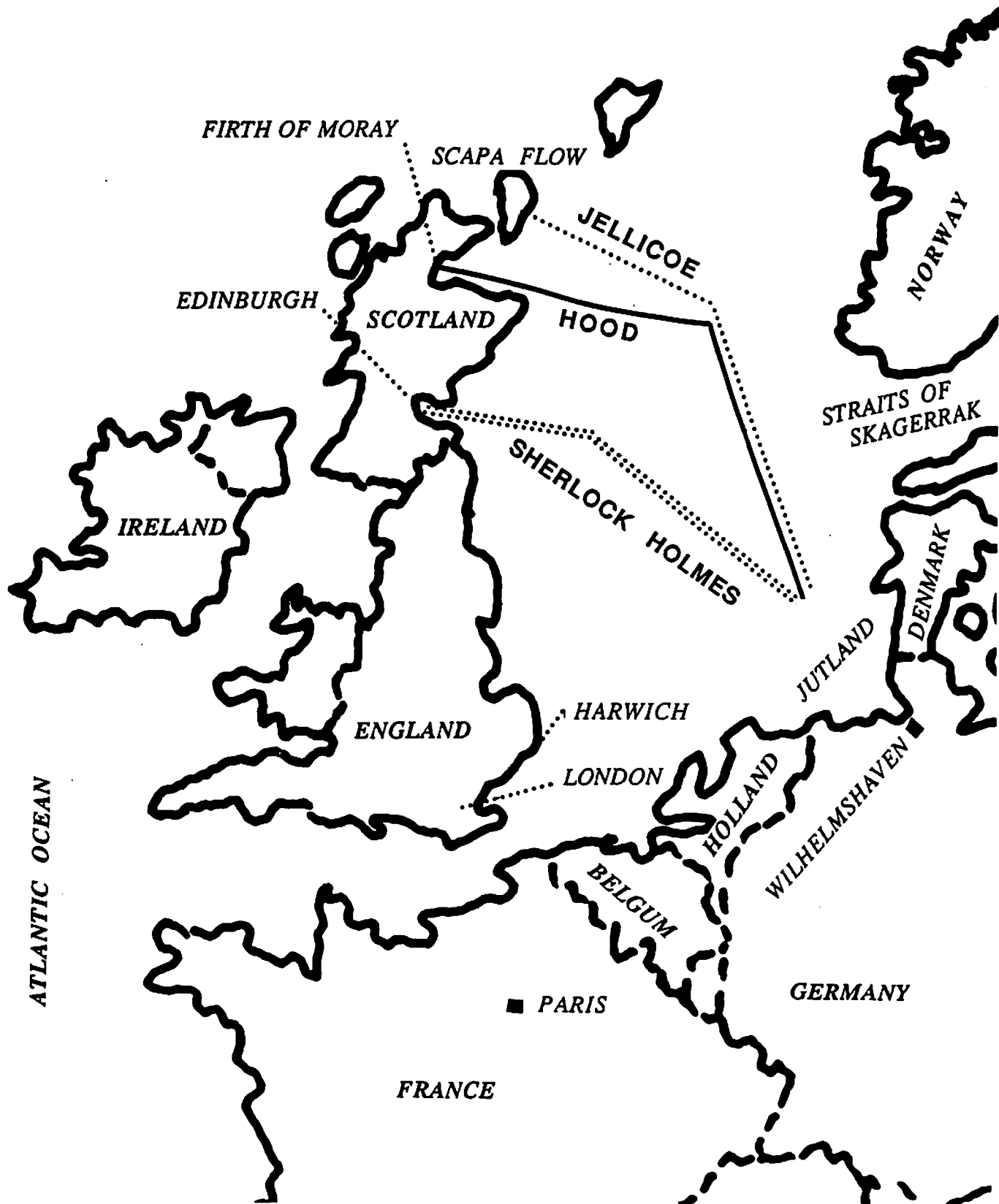
Before returning to join Beatty, aboard the Lion, Sherlock Holmes went off to visit the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Spencer Churchill. Holmes explained to Churchill the technical defects of his fleet. Churchill informed Holmes that he would do everything in his power as First Lord of the Admiralty, to make sure that the technical defects were remedied as quickly as possible.

So, thought Holmes, it would be nice to become an inspector aboard the Lion. It would give him the opportunity to serve King and country in uniform, instead of plain clothes. Holmes put his friend, John H. Watson, M.D., in charge of his apartment at 221B Baker Street, and bid London Good-bye for Edinburgh. The Great Northern took Holmes back to Edinburgh again.

(Next, Part II: "Jutland")

BATTLE OF JUTLAND

MAY 30 - JUNE 1, 1916

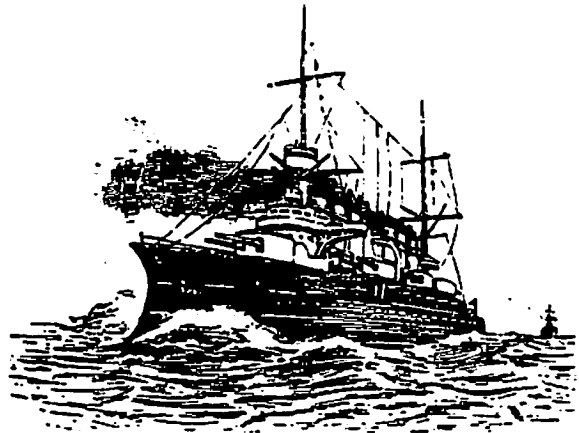


S A B O T A G E

PART II

J U T L A N D

MAY 31, 1916



"Welcome aboard the Lion," said David Beatty. "This time, I hope you will stay on as Chief Security Officer of our ship. I'm appointing you the rank of Commander."

"Thank you," said Holmes. "When will I get my uniform?"

"Tomorrow, a tailor in Edinburgh will fit you out. A sub-lieutenant will drive you over," said Beatty.

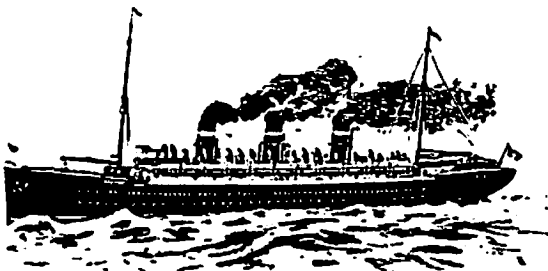
"Is this completely legal?" asked Holmes.

"Yes," said Beatty, "because as a vice-Admiral, there is only one god I have to answer to, and that is the sea."

"Very good." said Holmes.

Other than a minor episode at Dogger Bank in 1915, between Britain and Germany, the naval war had been uneventful. Then, on May 30, 1916, The day they had all been waiting for finally arrived. The German high seas fleet (a creation of Tirpitz), put out to sea under Admirals Scheer and Hipper.

The Lion, along with 15 other warships, steamed out of Edinburgh on the night of May 30, 1916. The darkness allowed them to slip by the 10 submarines that the Germans usually had at the harbor's mouth. They just got word from the British submarines (the British had no observation dirigibles), that the German fleet had been spotted off the Danish coast. Beatty ordered full steam ahead, as he wanted to intercept the Germans before Jellicoe did.



That night, Holmes went to his stateroom cabin (with Commander S. Holmes, Security Officer, on the doorway) and slept soundly. He didn't anticipate a naval action, or running into the German fleet, until the next day. Holmes wanted to be well rested for the impending naval engagement.

J U T L A N D

The next day, May 31st, Beatty and Hipper ran into each other off the Jutland bank of Denmark. Holmes had a bird's-eye view of this whole grand naval panorama from inside the forward gun turret of the Lion. Clearly, both admirals were set on the maneuver of crossing the other captain's "T".

Jellicoe's main fleet had just joined forces with Admiral Hood (steaming out of the Firth of Moray) about 40 miles away from the conflict. To the south, the German senior admiral, Scheer, was 30 miles away.

In a brilliant maneuver of his own, Hipper turned his whole fleet around and headed it south again. Now, Beatty and Hipper were running their fleets in parallel lines to each other, at about 13,000 yards distance. The Lion, followed by Princess Royal, Queen Mary, Tiger, New Zealand, Indefatigable, were running in a parallel column to Hipper's flagship, Lutzow, followed by the Derflinger, Seydlitz, Moltke, Von der Tann. Both columns opened fire on each other, the British battle-cruisers coming under the fire of the superior German battleships.

At this point Jellicoe and Hood had caught up with Hipper. Hood, aboard the Invincible, had used his fleet to block a possible escape of the German fleet through the Straits of Skagerrak.

As Beatty stood on the bridge, hands held tight to the helm, his face was suddenly reflected in red, as it caught the glare of Hood's flagship, the Invincible, blowing sky-high. The Invincible was a victim of a direct hit from the Derffinger. Beatty shouted down the voice pipe to Holmes, "Who the bloody hell built these ships today?" During the skirmish the Lion had been hit twice, but not before the Queen Mary had managed to disable the Seydlitz (this ship was saved by the Germans by flooding the magazine).

The Derffinger, which had just sunk the Invincible (Admiral Hood), now came under the range of the Queen Mary's 13 1/2" guns, but the British were only able to score one hit. At this moment, a shell from the Lutzow (Hipper) struck the gun turret that Holmes was in. Fires and smoke engulfed the room, but that did not interfere with the presence of mind of Marine Major Cockburn. Cockburn, with two legs shot off, managed to drag himself to the magazine voice-pipe and shout down, "flood the magazine, hot molten shrapnel falling down trunk shaft from main gun turret."

With that over with, the shell in the handling room exploded, exactly 30 seconds after the magazine had been flooded. The Lion and her crew of 1000 sailors, had been saved by Major Cockburn. Sherlock Holmes made sure when they got back to Edinburgh that one; Beatty found out that the Lion only survived Jutland because of Major Cockburn, and two; that Cockburn would receive a posthumous Victoria Cross.

J U T L A N D

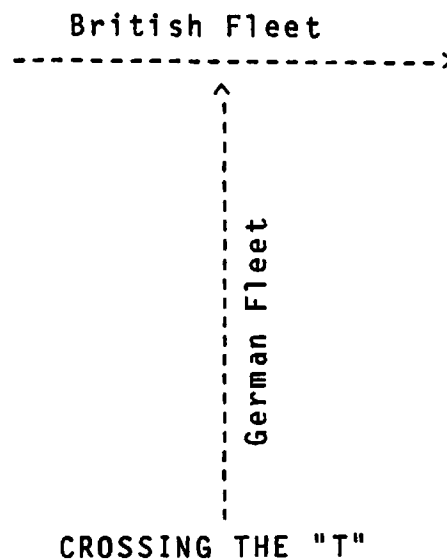
At the tail end of the British and German lines, the British battle cruiser Indefatigable got into a duel with the German ship Von der Tann. Horrified, Holmes and Beatty looked on from the bridge of the Lion as the Indefatigable blew sky high, with a loss of 900 men. It was a victim of the German ship's 12" guns.

As the British and German fleets continued their "slugging match" (to rob a phrase from Wellington), Beatty was again horrified, along with Sherlock Holmes, to witness the destruction of the Queen Mary. The Queen Mary came under a murderous cross-fire of the Seydlitz and the Derfflinger. Next, as her magazine exploded, the Queen Mary was a pillar of smoke and flame, with a loss of 1200 men. Jellicoe was not informed of the loss of the Queen Mary and the Indefatigable until the next day. Both the Queen Mary and the Indefatigable were victims of the anti-flash screens that Moriarty did not build into the British ships (sabotage).

With Jellicoe to the German north, steaming south, and Beatty blocking a German escape to the west (Denmark is to the German east), the Germans would now be completely surrounded by British ships if they should decide to turn north again.

The signal flags went up and down on the flagship, Friedrich der Grosse, for the German fleet to steam north again. Jellicoe, at this junction of our narrative, managed to cross the German "T", the British ships forming the top of the "T" to the straight German Line of ship formation. With this, Scheer ordered his fleet from the murderous cross-fire of British guns. Scheer's destroyers and torpedo boats moved in for the kill, letting out a fusillade of torpedoes, at the oncoming British fleet. On racing for cover, the German destroyers and torpedo boats let a smoke screen barrage to conceal their own escape and that of the German fleet.

The German fleet steamed south again, on towards Hanaburg, to prevent Beatty from getting in their rear. Clearly, Scheer had blundered. He completely forgot to appreciate that the British fleet had a rendezvous point, about 100 miles west of Denmark (Jutland Bank). Jellicoe, or the main fleet, came down from the Orkney Islands, to be joined by the Second Battle Squadron (Admiral Hood), from the Firth of Moray. When Scheer got into a shooting match with Beatty (one that Jellicoe had ordered Beatty not to engage) Jellicoe



J U T L A N D

managed to cross the German "T". This was the same ingenious naval maneuver used by Nelson to win the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

To secure a safe retreat, Scheer ordered four of his battle cruisers to close quarters with the British fleet. At great risk to themselves, the German battle cruisers let out a fusillade of shells and torpedoes. This turned the British fleet and slowed them just enough so the Germans could escape behind their smoke barrage. In this maneuver the Germans lost only the Wiesbaden.

The Germans, outmaneuvered by Jellicoe's far larger navy (2:1 ratio in superiority of ships), were forced to a strategic turn-away to save themselves. They could not risk being caught in a British pocket. If the Germans went farther north, the British could get behind them (Beatty) and cut their retreat to Wilhelmshaven.

Jellicoe had Beatty join them at this time and the whole fleet steamed at 20 knots, so that the slow ships could keep up (the Lion was lagging behind at 17 knots due to her flooded magazine). Scheer and Hipper regrouped and started steaming north again. They were both intoxicated with the success of blowing up three cruisers, Invincible, Indefatigable and Queen Mary. Late that same day, Jellicoe spotted the Channel Squadron (Harwich) that had just joined Beatty, on Scheer's western flank. The British armoured cruiser, Defence, now came under the mighty guns of Scheer's battleships and was sunk. As Defence was sinking, Jellicoe, for the second time in this engagement, managed to maneuver his column of ships across the German "T".

On the horizon, Captain Wintour, Fourth Destroyer Flotilla, came into view. Wintour had formerly been under Admiral Hood, stationed at the Firth of Moray. The Fourth Flotilla was thrown at Scheer's grand fleet, going like "mad", at 35 knots (Scheer was at 20 knots). Although Wintour lost the destroyers Tipperary and Spitfire, he managed to sink the German light cruiser Elbing. Sherlock Holmes stood laughing on the bridge of the Lion, roaring with laughter. The Elbing had made a break for it, to get through the British torpedo attack, and in the process had rammed the German battleship Posen. The Elbing had to be abandoned by her crew.

The Fourth Destroyer Flotilla regrouped for a second and third attack, but was unable to save the armoured cruiser Black Prince. During this night encounter, the German battleship Thuringen managed to floodlight this British ship and then mow her down with their big guns.

Scheer, (using signal lights at night time) maneuvered his fleet into a second turn-away. They steamed in the safety of darkness between the German minefields and the neutral shores of Denmark.

J U T L A N D

Aboard the Lion, Beatty ordered Sherlock Holmes to go down to the cordite charges room to make sure that the shellroom had been properly sealed off. The shellroom had been flooded by opening the seacocks so that the whole ship would not be blown up.

"This bloody ship is doing only 17 knots," cried Beatty, "better go down to make sure that the airtight compartments have been sealed off properly."

"Yes, sir," cried Holmes.

Holmes discovered that everything was in order below deck, so he spent the rest of the voyage helping with the wounded.

Scheer got his fleet safely back to the German shore batteries of Wilhelmshaven and the Jade River. However, the Germans could congratulate themselves on a tactical victory. Both sides lost roughly twelve ships, but the British lost twice as much tonnage as the Germans. Also, the British lost three battle cruisers while the Germans had lost only one light cruiser, the Elbing.

Jellicoe, by mastering Nelson's "T", showed himself the strategic master of the battlefield by completely out-maneuvering Scheer's German fleet. However, the Germans enjoyed qualitative superiority, both in the superiority of their ships and in the crews that sailed them.

On June 1 (the battle having commenced on May 30) Jellicoe ordered the British fleet back to their respective home ports: 1) Scapa Flow, 2) Firth of Moray, 3) Edinburgh and 4) Harwich. The British Empire had been saved by Jellicoe's strategic victory.

P O S T S C R I P T

Today, November 11, 1918, Sherlock Holmes and Doctor John H. Watson, M.D., went off to celebrate the end of World War I at Simpson's-in-the-Strand restaurant. Outside, a torrent of people were pouring into Trafalgar Square from Fleet Street, singing "It's a Long Way to Tipperary". Nelson's monument had been floodlit that night. For dinner Holmes and Watson had ordered roast beef, of course, and enjoyed the imperial grandeur of the restaurant.

The waiter, Helmut, brought Holmes an urgent cablegram from Switzerland. Holmes opened up the cablegram and read:

J U T L A N D

MERINGEN
SWITZERLAND
NOVEMBER 11, 1918

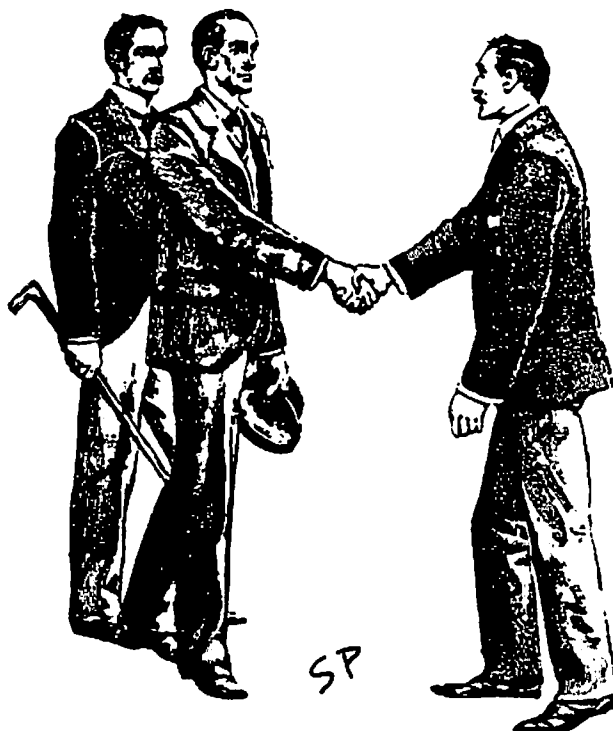
TO: SHERLOCK HOLMES

Good work at Jutland, Holmes. Unfortunately, your sabotaged fleet survived. Remember, for every German that falls, two will take his place. The German nation is a master race, not a subservient one. In Berlin there is fire in the ashes.

Germany will rise again!

SINCERELY YOURS,
JAMES MORIARTY

* * * * *



DIAMONT POETRY

"Diamont" poems are written in a diamond shape. The first and last words in the poem are usually opposites with the body of the poem providing a transition from one to the other. Here are the rules and a couple of poems submitted at the last meeting. Send in your poems and we will publish them in the next issue of the Herald.

First Line: 1 word - subject noun.

Second Line: 2 words - adjectives, describing the subject noun.

Third Line: 3 words - participles or "ing" words.

Fourth Line: 4 words - two nouns relate to the first subject noun,
two nouns relate to the final noun.

Fifth Line: 3 words - participles relating to the final noun.

Sixth Line: 2 words - adjectives describing the final noun.

Last Line: 1 word - final noun, usually an opposite of the first
line subject noun.

Example:

Sleuth

brilliant, eccentric

detecting, protecting, ruminating

carbuncles, treaties, secrets, murders

plotting, stealing, killing

nefarious, Napoleonic

Professor

DIAMONT POETRY

Here are two of the poems submitted at our last meeting:

Holmes

Victorian, enlightened,
studying, reasoning, apprehending
thieves, killers, outworlds, aliens
seeing, comprehending, explaining
futuristic, logical

Spock

- Karen Anderson

Hound

fell, ferocious
howling, hungering, hunting
moor, mire, hall, haste
fearing, fleeing, falling
accursed, aghast

Nobleman

- Poul Anderson

Now, what can you come up with for our next issue?

F a n l i g h t

by

William C. Haunert

Once I raced my boyhood over panting pages,
Pitted youthful mind against them all --
Holmes, Watson, Lestrade, Moriarty, and Doyle.
Little cared I then about their places or precise roles,
Or the modes of higher criticism.
I read and reasoned the master and his quarry over moors
And city streets; I outraced the glowing, evil hound;
Then I was fleet of foot as Watson, effectual as Holmes,
Counter to Moriarty, and much more than mere Lestrade.
I will do was stronger far than I have done.
My young dreams wore patriotic revolvers, blue stones,
Massive gold, and a suitable trample of footprints --
All amidst the soundest of slumbers.
And Now? My waist is wider, my legs no whit the longer,
But bright imagination burning still, still lights
The open door on Baker Street.

* * * * *

A*G*O*N*I*E*S

TO: EDITOR JAMES STANGER
I am working on a novel for
publishing in the next issue
of the Herald. How about it?
--J.S.,Jr.

* * *

TO: J.S.,Jr.
A novel!? No, no, a thousand
pages, no!!!
--James Stanger

* * *

TO: EDITOR STANGER
Well, how about a three or
four year serialization?
--J.S.,Jr.

* * *

TO: STANGER, Jr.
ARGGGGGHHH!!!
--Stanger

* * *

TO: EDITOR STANGER
I agree!
--Suffering Susan
(J.S.,Jr.'s wife)

* * *

TO: EDITOR STANGER
A thousand pages??? Ooh,
my aching ICs.
--Boswell

* * *

TO: STANGER, SUSAN & BOSWELL
I really think you are all
conspiring against me.
--J.S.,Jr.

* * *



TO: SUSAN & BOSWELL
All conspiritors will meet
under the old Tyburn Tree at
midnight.
--Stanger, Sr.

* * *

TO: ANYONE KNOWING THE
whereabouts of one John Clay.
Please contact Mr. John
Gerridebs. I should like a few
words regarding the "Red-
headed League" and a Mr.
Sherlock Holmes of London.

* * *

TO: EDITOR JAMES STANGER
I have from various sources
heard that your staff has been
considering publication of a
"pin-up" picture of one Irene
Adler.
Should such a picture reside
in your possession I would pay
most handsomely to add it to
my private collection.
--The King of Bohemia

* * *

TO: EDITOR STANGER
I shall equal his offer.
--The Prince of Wales

* * *

S H E R L O C K I A N A

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, August 22, 1987

Meeting of the Scowrers & Molly Maguires at the Baskerville Hall and the S. Holmes, Esquire, 480 Sutter Street, San Francisco. This meeting will be convened to climax one of the best Sherlockian Centenaries in a year when the name of Sherlock Holmes is truly heard everywhere. Cocktails and non-canonical toasting will begin at 6:30 PM, dinner will begin at 7:00 PM. The menu will include seabass in green peppercorn sauce, rice pilaf, and more.

Reservations are \$19.00 before August 21st or \$20.00 at the door. Contact Brother Harraway, Vermissa Valley Lodge 341, Mount Eden, CA 94557

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Sunday August 23, 1987

Pacific Film Archives, 2625 Durant (near College Ave), Berkeley, presents two rare silent Sherlock Holmes movies. "The Copper Beeches" (French 1912), and the Ellie Norwood production of "The Man with the Twisted Lip". Jon Mirsalis will be on the piano to accompany these films.

Tickets will be \$4.25 per person and the presentation will begin at 9:15 PM. Those who wish to can gather earlier (at 7:30 PM) for dinner.

* * * * *

Saturday, October 17, 1987

Our own "Silver Blaze" at Bay Meadows, San Mateo. Another joint venture of the Scowrers & Molly Maguires and the Knights of the Gnomon. We will meet at 12:30 at the clubhouse. The cost of \$25.00 will include admission to the track and admission to the clubhouse. Also, a complimentary program (in which our race will be listed), a delicious buffet luncheon (served from 12:30 to 3:30) and a small donation to the Dickensheet Fund. There will also be a no host bar.

Following "our" race, Scowrers and Knights will make presentations to the winning horse, his jockey and his owner. Mark your calendars now.

Send reservations, with cheques, to:

Bruce R. Parker, MD, BSI
Stanford Medical Center, S-058
Stanford, CA 94305

S H E R L O C K I A N A

Please reserve before October 8th. Earlier reservations are most helpful.

* * * * *

Wednesday, January 6, 1988

Holmes is 134 years young and still showing no signs of aging. The Scowrers dinner will, of course, be held on Saturday. However, if you are in the area this is an excellent evening to visit the S. Holmes, Esquire (480 Sutter Street, San Francisco). You may even find a Stanger (or two) sitting beside the fireplace, in the Persian Slipper Club, contemplating the finest reproduction of that famous lodging where so many adventures began. The half eaten supper is still on the table as Holmes and Watson have quickly departed and, I swear, there is still the echo of "Quick Watson, the game is afoot!"

* * * * *

DISJECTA MEMBRA

While celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first appearance in print of Sherlock Holmes I am sure that you have become well aware of the proliferation of Sherlockian memorabilia, articles, books, video tapes, etc. It would be very difficult to list all of these in this section. Besides adding another 10 to 20 pages to this issue (for which editor Stanger would probably pull Boswell's plug) it has become increasingly arduous to keep the list up to date.

However, if you have seen something that we have not mentioned please drop a note to editor Stanger. It is quite possible that we do not have the item noted in our records.

* * * * *

We began this centennial celebration a little early with an article in SMITHSONIAN magazine (December 1986). I am sure that most of you have seen the article and we have already commented in the January 1987 issue of the Herald so enough said at this time.

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In the February/March issue of BRITISH HERITAGE magazine there is a special dedication to 100 years of Sherlock Holmes. Special sections include the Sherlock Holmes market place, Sherlock Holmes tours, as well as a listing of the original 60 adventures and their dates of first publication.

BRITISH HERITAGE is available through a subscription rate of \$20.00 per year for U.S. residents and \$25.00 outside the U.S. The address for subscriptions is:

S H E R L O C K I A N A

BRITISH HERITAGE
Subscriber Service Centre
Box 1066
Mt. Morris, IL 61054

I am uncertain about their policy on back issues, however, in the "Correspondence" column individuals are advertising back issues for sale.

* * * * *

Sherlock Holmes is still front page news after 100 years. In the "LOS ANGELES TIMES" an article appeared on page one of the Wednesday, January 14, 1987 edition. The article "Sherlock - Myth Blurs the Reality" begins by mentioning Holmes' current secretary, Sue Brown, and the letters she answers from around the world. It goes on to mention The Baker Street Irregulars, The Sherlock Holmes Society, The Non-Canonical Calabashes (of Southern California) and the running of The Silver Blaze race in Southern California. All in all an interesting article. However, it does look as though someone is spreading viscous gossip again that Holmes is a "fictional" character. (Moriarty, is that you.)

The "SAN FRANCISCO EXAMINER" on Wednesday, March 4, 1987 also had an article celebrating 100 years of Holmes. The article was not on the front page, but in the "Epicure" section. This article is titled "Sherlock Holmes might have said: 'Alimentary, my dear Watson!'" It concerns the Culinary Institute of the Arts in Hyde Park, N.Y. (nicknamed the CIA) and their investigation of "every possible relationship between Holmes and food..."

The investigation resulted in the publication of a book Dining With Sherlock Holmes (Bobbs-Merrill, 1976) based on 198 references to food or meals in the Canon. At the end of the article we are treated to a recipe for "Sherlockian Shredded Chicken Kasimir" (hmmm, looks good).

* * * * *

Last year we saw RENEGADE PRESS begin the publication of a series of black and white "comic-books" depicting "THE CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES". I, for one, dislike the term "comic-book" when it is applied to a publication of this quality (perhaps an illustrated story would be a better term). I am pleased to report that as of this writing the series is continuing, making it the longest running series of Sherlock Holmes stories in this form. All of you interested in subscribing should see the ad at the back of this edition.

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LETTERS TO THE PRESS by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, published by University of Iowa Press, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242 (price: \$19.95 plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling).

S H E R L O C K I A N A

A collection from the hundreds of letters Doyle wrote to the national newspapers and journals throughout the world. They are presented in chronological order and trace Doyle's entire working life.

* * * * *

Recently found at B. Dalton Booksellers:

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE - THE HISTORICAL NOVELS, a two volume set containing "The White company", "Sir Nigel", "The Exploits of Brigadier Gerard", "Adventures of Gerard", "Micah Clarke", "The Refugees" and "Rodney Stone". Published by New Orchards Editions, Ltd., Robert Rogers House, New Orchard, Poole, Dorset BH15 1LU and priced at \$19.95 for the set.

A STUDY IN SCARLET - A SHERLOCK HOLMES MURDER MYSTERY. This book is not the story "A Study in Scarlet" but a collection of papers and reminiscences by John H. Watson pertaining to the case. Published in book form by Peerage Books, 59 Grosvenor Street, London, W1. It is priced at \$3.99 on Dalton's clearance table.

Also seen on the clearance table were the Basil Rathbone - Nigel Bruce movies (on video tape) going at half the \$14.95 price tag.

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For all Sherlockiana collectors. Here are a couple of good sources for almost anything Sherlockian:

FOR ANYTHING SHERLOCK HOLMES
ROOTS
Quarry Bank, 48 Shalmarsh Road
Hr. Bebington, The Wirral
Cheshire L63 2JZ England

If you send a dollar bill you will be placed on the mailing list for information on the many, many items of Sherlockiana they handle.

SHERLOCK'S HOME
4137 E. Anaheim St.
Long Beach, CA 90804

Sherlock's Home is a little closer to our home and their list of merchandise is also extensive. Among available items are books, maps, ashtrays, coffee mugs, statues and even a Sherlock Holmes chess set (pieces are available individually as well as in the full set).

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S H E R L O C K I A N A

Available from The Old Soldiers of Baker Street of the Two Saults, 909 Prospect, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783:

VOICES FROM BAKER STREET I, II & III

A four record set including Vincent Starrett reading his open letter to the Baker Street Irregulars, Basil Rathbone telling "How it all began" and much, much more. \$27.00 including shipping.

CARDS FROM 221B, an assortment of calling cards as found on the tray at 221B. \$2.00 per set.

THE AGONY COLUMN, a new Sherlockian newsletter to be published on alternating months. \$5.00 for one year, \$12.00 for three years.

* * * * *

Sherlock Holmes has entered the computer age with at least two computer games now on the market. The first is from Bantam/Imagic and is titled Sherlock Holmes in "Another Bow". The Adventure is, of course, a murder mystery. Actually, it is not one murder mystery, but six different cases and this time it is aboard a cruise ship with a passenger list that includes not only Holmes and Watson but Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, William Gillette, Harry Houdini, Thomas Edison and many others. There is no listing for Moriarty, but then again, he could always use a different name. This game is available for IBM PC's, APPLE and ATARI computers. Graphics are quite good.

The second game is based on the already popular board game 221B Baker Street. Distributed by Datasoft it is available for APPLE II and ATARI but not for IBM PC's at this time. Boswell is a PC compatible so I have not been able to play this one yet. If anyone has used it let us know how you like it. The retail price is \$29.95.

* * * * *

Now for a very special note. Charlotte and Brian Erickson have been working on a complete inventory of the Sherlock Holmes room at 480 Sutter Street, in San Francisco. At this time the work was still in progress. However, it should be completed in time for the Stanford Seminar. In looking over the working copy I have to say that it is a beautifully done listing complete with references from the Canon. By the time it is finished it should be about 16 pages and include a floor plan and photographs. I think it will be well worth the \$5.00 price. (For mail orders please add \$1.00 to help cover postage and handling.) If you don't see them at the Stanford Seminar, or the Scowrers dinner, you can send a request to Brian or Charlotte Erickson, 726 Sutter, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

S H E R L O C K I A N A

Although checks should be made to Brian Erickson, or Charlotte Erickson, they have said that all profits will be donated to the Persian Slipper Club and the Dean Dickensheet Fund.

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Below are black and white reproductions of four of the Cloisonne pins designed by Gene Stovall for the Stanford Seminar. Two other pins, Dr. Watson and Professor Moriarty, should be ready by the beginning of the seminar. Unfortunately, the reproductions can not show the detail and the colors of these pieces. They are beautifully done and I urge you to seek out Gene at the seminar, or the Scowrers dinner. I understand that they are in limited quantities and I doubt if they will last long.



Irene Adler

"Scowrers
Molly Maguires
San Francisco"



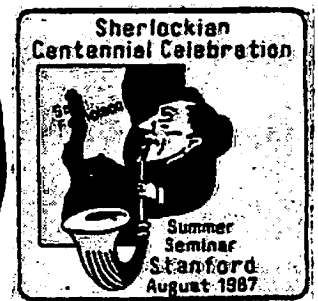
Holmes

"The Scowrers
And The
Molly Maguires
of San Francisco"



Holmes

"Sherlock Holmes
Centennial
1887-1987"



Summer Seminar

"Sherlockian
Centennial
Celebration"

* * * * *

THE DEAN DICKENSHEET AWARD

The Dean Dickensheet Award is presented to the person who best exemplifies Sherlockian scholarship through articles and papers that have been presented to the Scowrers & the Molly Maguires during the year.

Congratulations to Paul Scholten, M. D. for being the recipient of the 1987 Dean Dickensheet award. This award is for his well researched, and well written, paper "Sherlock Holmes, Connoisseur, or, Brandy in Victorian Medical Therapeutics." The paper was published in the January 1987 (Vol. 6, No. 1) issue of the Vermessa Daily Herald.

The previous winners of this award are:

1985 Pamela Clark for "Some Reflections on Trevor Hall and the Early Life of Sherlock Holmes". This paper was published in

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the January 1986 (Vol.5 No.1) issue of the Herald and also in Vol. 35 No. 3 of the Baker street Journal.

1986 Poul and Karen Anderson. Their contributions to Sherlockian scholarship are numerous and the award is well deserved.

1987 A special Dickensheet award was presented to Ray de Groat for his 20 years of very active service as Brother Harraway, our society's secretary. Without his efforts we would not have the organization we have today.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE VERMISSA DAILY HERALD

The Vermissa Daily Herald is the official publication of the Scowrers and The Molly Maguires. It is published at least twice each year. Paid subscriptions include postage and handling (members may wish to pick up their issues at club meetings to avoid damage by the post office).

While faced with rapidly rising printing cost we have been able to offer this expanded journal format and maintain the member's subscription rate at the same level as it was in 1981 (with thanks to a subsidy we receive from the membership dues). However, we have been forced to raise the non-member subscription rate slightly to help cover increased postage costs.

Subscription Rates:

Members of the Scowrers & Molly Maguires:

One year: \$5.00. Please indicate if you wish to have the Herald mailed or picked up at the meetings.

Non-member one year rate is \$7.50, including postage.

Single issues and back issues (begining with Vol. 5 No. 1) are available at \$3.00 each plus \$1.00 for postage and handling

Please make checks payable to Thomas E. Miller at the address listed below.

Editor James Stanger
C/O Thomas E. Miller
965 Spencer Way
Los Altos, CA 94022

Articles, illustrations and any other contributions to the Herald may also be sent to Editor Stanger at the same address. We are always looking for material for future issues.

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The Scowrsers & Molly Maguires

The San Francisco Scion Society of The Baker Street Irregulars

To confuse the nefarious Pinkertons from giving entrance, persons are admitted to full membership in the Scowrsers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco upon appearing at the third meeting after application. By that event they should:

1. Read or reread the Canon (56 short stories and 4 long printed under the name Sir A. Conan Doyle)
2. Identify 20 of the illustrated references in the margins of this letter by (a) adventure and (b) context.
3. Describe the following references in VALLEY OF FEAR:

- | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|------------------|
| a) McGinty | l) Morris | k) Cecil Barker |
| b) Hargrave | g) Scanlan | l) Ted Baldwin |
| c) Harraway | h) Ellie | m) Ivy |
| d) Stanger | i) Porlock's Cipher | n) Birstone |
| e) McMurdo | j) Teddy Marvin | o) Benito Canyon |

4. Know the basic history of the Baker Street Irregulars and the Scowrsers (the dates of founding of the B.S.I. and its San Francisco Scion as well as the names of the founders of both groups).

When you have presented or mailed a paper testifying to number 1 above and written proof of compliance with 2, 3 and 4, you will be recognized as a card carrying member of V.V. 341.

Should anyone not want to complete the above testimonial, they may still become a full member in the Scowrsers and Molly Maguires by faithfully attending every meeting for three years.

We are in need of members who will share their Sherlockian scholarship with us by delivering new papers at each meeting. Especially are we desirous of presentations which involve the other members present and of quizzes on the Canon. (Dues covering printing, postal costs and editing of the V.V. Herald are \$10.00 paid by Jan. 6 each year.

Help us to keep confusing the Pinkertons.

Harraway, B.S.I.

Post-script: The Main Branch of the San Francisco Library has a special section devoted entirely to writings on The Writings as well as The Writings themselves.

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